

RECYCLING WORKS

It's Good Business

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THE Computer Recovery Project

SUCCESSFULLY DIVERTS MOUNTAINS OF COMPUTER WASTE FROM LANDFILLS

Four months and over 3,500 computer monitors later, the pilot Computer Recovery Project has successfully reused and recycled over 45 tons of potentially hazardous material and, more importantly, informed King County residents and businesses about the number of options to trashing their used computer equipment.

The pilot program yielded some significant findings that will be used to set up what will hopefully turn into permanent locations where King County businesses and residents can donate, refurbish or recycle their used computer equipment. Some of the more interesting findings include:

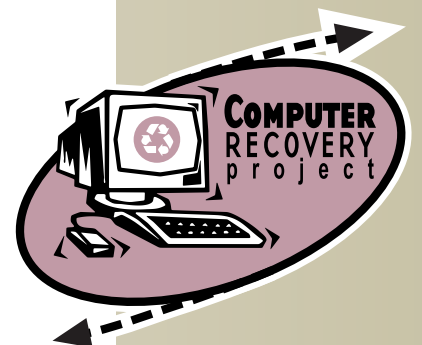
- Thirty five percent of the participants surveyed recycled their old monitors, 26% recycled CPUs, and 13% had printers to recycle.
- The public was accepting of the \$10 fee to recycle computer monitors.
- Forty-nine percent of the participants surveyed heard about the program through newspaper articles.
- The majority of participants were supportive of the program and encouraged its continuation.

As a result of this pilot project, local recycler Total Reclaim, Inc., has expanded its business and opened a new 12,000-foot facility in the South Park area to process the used computer monitors. It is the first company in the Seattle area to disassemble computer monitors for recycling.

Total Reclaim will remove the plastic shell from the monitor and send it to a reprocessing plant to be ground, pelletized and made into recycled plastic feedstock. The metals and circuit boards will be melted and reprocessed. The leaded glass from the picture tubes will be sent to a company in Pennsylvania to be remade into picture tubes for televisions and monitors.

For more information about the Computer Recovery Project and the various donation and reuse options for used computer equipment, visit dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/crp.htm or call (206) 296-8800.

For businesses interested in recycling their old computers monitors, contact Total Reclaim, Inc. directly at (206) 343-7443. •



See article inside on the sidebar for information on reducing waste when purchasing new computer equipment.



Smart Purchasing Decisions Take a "Byte" Out of Waste

The Guide to Environmentally
Preferable Computer Purchasing

Although the King County Computer Recovery Project successfully recovered over 3,500 computer monitors and other valuable resources, you can also reduce waste when you purchase new computer equipment.

The Guide to Environmentally Preferable Computer Purchasing, published by Northwest Product Stewardship Council, is now available online and in print for anyone interested in buying a computer that has less impact on our environment.

The guide offers information on:

- Product features on computers that can damage the environment,
- Alternatives to seek for more environmental options,
- Where to get details about products and contract terms,
- Who's doing what among manufacturers, agencies and organizations to protect our environment.

Some things to consider when buying new equipment:

- Leasing and take-back options can divert reusable and recyclable materials from our landfills and saves resources.
- Online manuals and pre-installed software programs save paper and other resources.
- Using remanufactured and refurbished equipment can be a less expensive and conserves resources.

For an online version of the guide, visit www.govlink.org/nwpsc/. For a printed version, contact Shirli Axelrod at (206) 684-7804 or via email at shirli.axelrod@ci.seattle.wa.us. For more information on the Northwest Product Stewardship Council, visit www.govlink.org/nwpsc/.



Corrugated Cardboard Doubles as Packaging Material

New Uses for Cardboard Boxes

Instead of buying new packaging material, make your own from the corrugated boxes you've got stacked out back! Companies that both collect large amounts of corrugated boxes and need packaging material can purchase the CORRU-SHREDDER® from W.R. Container Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The CORRU-SHREDDER allows you to make your own 30 pound box of CORRU-FILL® packaging material in minutes.

The CORRU-FILL packaging material is made of four by one-eighth inch strands of cardboard. It can protect even the most irregular shaped objects by surrounding them in a constantly shifting lattice of air and shredded cardboard.

The CORRU-SHREDDER comes in two sizes. The smaller model, mounted on wheels, requires 110 volts to operate and generates about 1,400 pounds of CORRU-FILL in eight hours. The larger stationary



model requires 240 volts to operate and churns out nearly 2,000 pounds of CORRU-FILL in eight hours. W.R. Container Inc. will even purchase your surplus CORRU-FILL back for \$200 per ton.



Smaller businesses that need packaging materials can purchase CORRU-FILL directly from W.R. Container. W.R. Container Inc. sells a 30-pound box of CORRU-FILL for \$15 and will ship anywhere in the United States. Compared to the regular packing peanuts, CORRU-FILL is fully biodegradable and recyclable, anti-static and non-toxic. To prove the

product's superior cushioning ability, W.R. Container Inc. will mail you a raw egg in a box full of CORRU-FILL. For more information on W.R. Container's products and services, visit their website at www.wrcontainer.com or call (505) 246-9275.

For a list of local companies recycling packing peanuts and other materials, visit King County's Recycling and Reuse Database at www6.metrokc.gov/dnr/swd/Recycle/Recycle.asp or call (206) 296-8800.

**Try it out: have a
raw egg shipped
to you in a sample
box of CORRU-FILL®**

Surfing in the Sun



Reducing Greenhouse Gases with Solar Web Hosting

The simple act of using less electricity can help reduce greenhouse gases. Marc and Carole Overman, enthusiasts of renewable energy, saw the light one day after selling their Virginia-based software company in 1999. In March 2000, the Overmans combined their experience in the computer world with their interest in solar energy and started Solarhost.com, the world's first and only solar-powered web hosting service.

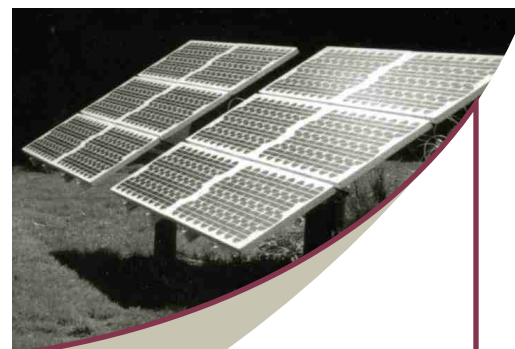
Solarhost.com offers an array of web hosting services, including graphics and design assistance, e-commerce capabilities and domain registration—all powered entirely by non-polluting, photovoltaic (solar) cells, which converts sun-

light to an endless source of electricity for Solarhost's web servers and facility. With over 360 solar cells generating an average of 4.8 kilowatts per hour, Solarhost stores its excess power in battery packs to keep things running during cloudy or rainy days and at night. A nearby backup energy source, guarantees Solarhost's premium customers less than one hour of down time per year.

Environmentally-minded national organizations as well as local small businesses just seeking good, reliable web hosting services are all flocking to Solarhost. In eight months, over 200 businesses are using Solarhost, including the Alliance to Save Energy, attorneys, and even a local horse breeder. "Nearly 40% of our customers are small business owners," said Marc Overman. "Sure, they want to be environmental, but the foremost reason why I think businesses are using us is that we're

offering them great customer service and reliable web hosting capabilities." Doing it pollution-free, said Marc, is just an added bonus.

Visit www.Solarhost.com and enjoy some good, clean Internet surfing. Or call (800) 860-1265 for more information regarding Solarhost's services or solar-powered web hosting and other renewable energy ideas. •



Recycling Helps Cut Greenhouse Gases

Introducing the Climate-Wise Program

Scientists and experts at the University of Washington estimate that temperatures in the Pacific Northwest could increase 5.3 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2050 due to global warming. Global warming is caused by burning fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide and other gases into our atmosphere.

An increase in global warming of this magnitude could cause all sorts of disturbances in our environment. The flow of the Columbia River could decrease by 20 to 30 percent—which is bad news for irrigation and for salmon. There could also be droughts in the summer due to a decrease in snow pack and increased rain and floods in the spring, fall and winter.

However, there are many things we can do now to reduce greenhouse gases. Recycling is one of them. By recycling and using recycled materials, we conserve natural resources and the energy it takes to extract those materials from the environment. Recycling one pound of corrugated cardboard or plastic reduces gas emissions by over 1.5 pounds. One pound



of recycled newspaper reduces 1.3 pounds of emissions.

To make it even easier, commercial and industrial customers of all sizes can become Climate Wise partners and receive free assistance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Many strategies that reduce greenhouse gases can also result in savings on utility bills. The Climate Wise program is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and administered by Seattle City Light. Seattle City Light is also partnering with other public and private programs such as energy, water, waste and transportation programs to offer an integrated system of emission reduction options. Benefits of Climate Wise include free technical assistance and site assessments, free

project and emission tracking software, utility incentives and positive public recognition.

For more information on the Climate Wise program or to become a partner, contact Jack Brautigam at (206) 864-3954 or via email at jack.brautigam@ci.seattle.wa.us. •

Rid Your Mailroom *of Junk Mail*

NATIONAL WASTE PREVENTION COALITION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE FOR BUSINESSES

With the recent flood of catalogues from the holiday season still lingering in your recycling bin, why not try to stem the wasteful flow by preventing junk mail from being mailed to you in the first place? According to the American Small Business Alliance, dealing with unwanted mail can pose a significant drain on the time and resources of any business. At one Seattle office mailroom, a six-week study showed that the mailroom staff spent 25 percent of its time sorting advertising mail.

Unfortunately, businesses can't use the same strategies that households use to reduce unwanted mail. For instance, the Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference Service, which works for households, cannot be used for business addresses. In response, the National Waste Prevention Coalition (NWPC) recently launched a new website for businesses seeking ways to stem the flow of junk mail.

Log onto the NWPC's Reduce Business Junk Mail Website at www.metrokc.gov/nwpc to access tips and direct links to start decreasing the amount of staff time and disposal fees your business is spending on dealing with unsolicited mail.

Some suggestions on how your business can prevent direct mailers from putting you or your business on their mailing list in the first place:

- Place some standard language on purchase orders, such as, "In the interests of reducing waste, please do not share this name or address with other mailers, through mail list sales or trades."
- Make it a standard practice for employees at your company to ask businesses who they deal with not to share their names. Keep the power to choose which vendors you WANT to hear from.

- Ask your receptionist to screen callers who ask for your company's address, zip code, name of the senior buyer, etc. Some callers may have a good reason for seeking such information, but many just want to add your business to a mailing list. Tell them no thanks!

Some planning and forethought can also help keep your company from ending up on an unsolicited mailing list:

- List only your company name and phone number in the telephone book.
- Call senders of unsolicited mail and ask them to remove your name from their mailing list.
- Pay by credit card instead of by check, since most checks list address.
- Do not register software. Usually, the only benefit to the buyer is a few months, at most, of free technical support calls. And it is not a required part of the licensing agreement, as many believe. The same principle applies to warranty registration cards for products.
- Subscribe electronically to newsletters, magazines, newspapers and so on. This is becoming more and more available.

The website even offers an electronic version (Adobe format) of a model postcard you can customize and print out to send to mailers to get off lists. If you've requested a specific mailer at least twice to take your business off their list, but they continue to send you unwanted mail, file a report by using the Business Junk Mail Complaint Bureau link. Problem mailers that receive several complaints will be contacted by NWPC.

Businesses that send direct mail can also read case studies on the website to learn how they can reduce the amount of unwanted mail they send—learning to decrease the budget wasted on printing and sending unwanted advertising—and the chance of being an annoyance. One software company in Portland, Oregon saved nearly \$14,000 every year after they deleted all the incorrect or outdated names from their mailing list. Moreover, the new targeted list also prevented over 3,000 pounds of wasted mail.

Visit the website at www.metrokc.gov/nwpc for more information and suggestions on how to get a handle on junk mail. A little effort on your part now can save valuable company time and money while reducing waste in your recycling bins. For more information on the National Waste Prevention Coalition, contact Tom Watson at (206) 296-4481 or via email at tom.watson@metrokc.gov. •



David Vandervort Architects

Green from the Ground Up

Opening the door to sustainable building can be as simple as asking the right questions. And that's what David Vandervort Architects (DVA) does: DVA asks clients planning new homes, mixed-use buildings, restaurants, and smaller-scale commercial structures about their "green-building" wants and needs. Then DVA delivers, using a combination of sustainable designs, materials, and methods. These could include adaptable building design, recycled and low-impact building materials, grey water systems, and solar design.

DVA's Ballard-based staff keeps the commitment to waste and resource control in their day-to-day operations. They reuse office supplies, count on durable kitchenware instead of disposables, and participate in their building's recycling program. Staff stay well-trained in the latest low-impact techniques and materials for their clients, and spread the word about sustainable building at conferences and workshops. It all adds up to a wise building alternative for the Puget Sound area. For more information, call (206) 784-1614. •

Forest Concepts

If You Build It, Fish Will Come

Forest Concepts LLC, based in Federal Way, has a fresh hook on Mother Nature's shortage of large logs and woody debris needed for habitat

Forest Concepts, LLC

enhancement and watershed restoration. The newly-invented ELWd® (pronounced "el-wood") structures are made with a patented method of forming small diameter logs and forest residuals into large organic ones. ELWd is a good alternative to the increasingly expensive and rare native large woody debris used for salmon restoration structures.

ELWd structures are sold as kits and are easily assembled on-site by small crews or volunteer groups. ELWd structures are made entirely of wood—with no bolts, nails, bands or other

fasteners to negatively impact the environment. "ELWd structures get better with age," said Justin Maschhoff, biologist and technical specialist for Forest Concepts. Over time, "ELWd structures collect organic materials and sediment within crevices, allowing for seed germination and rapid plant establishment—and creating a happy breeding ground for local salmon.

Forest Concepts LLC purchases and uses recycled materials when possible, and encourages organizations and non-profits to consider recycled products as well. Salmon and other aquatic habitats can now look upstream to ELWd structures, and see a brighter, cleaner future. For more information on ELWd, contact Justin Maschhoff at (253) 838-7229 or visit www.elwdsystems.com. •

Silverbrook Limited

The Doctor Offers Cure for Environmental Ailments

If you wanted to restabilize river and stream banks, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and build volunteer and community involvement, who are you going to call? Call Silverbrook's owner Dr. James H. Dooley, who believes in getting businesses involved in environmental restoration. Dr. Dooley and his staff serve as a resource for connecting interested companies with local non-profit environmental organizations. Silverbrook, located in Federal Way, is also the parent company for Forest Concepts, the makers of the engineered wood structure substitute, ELWd®.

Dr. Dooley guides, develops and incubates products and technologies where biology and engineering intersect. With the success of products such as the ELWd and with Dr. Dooley's strong advocacy for industries to collaborate with universities, it appears that Silverbrook is creating its own rich habitat for ideas that use good engineering to meet environmental needs. For more information regarding Silverbrook, contact Dr. James Dooley at (253) 838-7229 or via email at jdooley@seanet.com. •

New Members

AMICA Mutual Insurance Company, *Bellevue*
Aromatherapy Skin Care Clinic, *Woodinville*
Charles D Grass CPA, *Renton*
Complete Travel Service, *Shoreline*
Hammer Auto Rebuild Inc, *Seattle*
Kibble & Prentice Inc, *Bellevue*
Madison Carnolia Cleaners, *Seattle*
Penhallegon Associates Consulting Engineers Inc., *Kirkland*
Plantscapes Inc, *Seattle*
Shane's Foot Comfort Center, *Shoreline*
Washington Casualty Company, *Bellevue*

Renewals

'A' Street Clinic of Chiropractic, *Auburn*
ALSTOM ESCA Corp, *Bellevue*
Andrew's Hallmark Gold Crown Store, *Bellevue*
B. Robert Cohan DDS MS, *Federal Way*
Billy McHale's Restaurant, *Renton*
Boston Scientific Corp NW Technical Center, Inc., *Redmond*
Boston Street – The Children's Everything Store, *Redmond*
Brookfield Veterinary Hospital, *Redmond*
Carlson Wagonlit – The Travel Place, *Bellevue*
Chuck's Gas & Diesel Garage, *Carnation*
City of Issaquah – City Hall NW Building
Cutter Precision Metal, *Kent*
Foxfire Jewelers, *Woodinville*
Frankie's Pizza and Pasta, *Redmond*
Gagley, Mirise & Williams LLP, *Kent*
Hume Investment, Inc., *Kent*
Julia F. Tybor Moore MD, *Federal Way*
Law Office of Ruth Laura Edlund, *Bellevue*
Lockeroom, *Tukwila*
Minkler's Green Earth, *Renton*
Modus Media International, Inc., *Preston*
Mt Peak Medical Clinic, *Enumclaw*
Redmond Medical Center, *Redmond*
Richard E Jacobs Group, *Tukwila*
Sacajewa Healthcare for Pets, *Federal Way*
St Vincent de Paul – Tukwila, *Tukwila*
Saturn of Renton, *Renton*
Seahurst Dental Design –
Jim Coleman DDS, *Burien*
Tall Fashions Northwest, *Renton*
Val Pak Of Western Washington/Central, *Kent*
WA Dept. of Natural Resources, *Enumclaw*
Wilsonart International, *Algona*

so what is Green Works?

Green Works is a waste prevention and recycling assistance program for businesses. It is sponsored by the King County Solid Waste Division, the Business and Industry Recycling Venture of The Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and King County suburban cities. If your business needs help reducing waste or finding a company to recycle your office paper, aluminum cans or even used office equipment, give us a call.

Businesses can become Green Works Members by recycling at least 40 percent of their waste, using three waste reduction practices, and using three recycled products in the work place. Each Green Works Member receives free, positive publicity in this newsletter, on the radio, and in local newspapers and publications. For assistance or to become a Green Works member, you may call us at (206) 296-8800 or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY Relay); visit our web site at www.metrokc.gov/greenworks; fax us at (206) 296-0197; or email us at greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov.

Recycling Works

Recycling Works is a quarterly newsletter written and produced by the King County Solid Waste Division. Inclusion of a business, product or service in this newsletter does not constitute an official endorsement or sponsorship by the Solid Waste Division or King County. Send us your questions, story ideas or suggestions!

Receive Recycling Works by Email

Cut down on waste and receive *Recycling Works* via email. We'll send it to you in **Portable Document Format (PDF)** that's read with **Adobe's Acrobat Reader**. Email your name, company name and your email address to: greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov. You may also fax your request to (206) 296-0197, or call us at (206) 296-8800; 1-800-833-6388 (TTY Relay).

This material will be provided in
alternate formats upon request.

Earth Legacy 2000

Protecting Our Environment for Future Generations

Often, just a few people can make huge positive changes in our community. Why not join King County Executive Ron Sims to keep our environment healthy!

In May of this year, Executive Sims launched Earth Legacy 2000 to celebrate the importance of protecting and enhancing the health of our natural environment. This initiative features programs that everyone can participate in to protect our region's air, land, and water.

Participate in our events and programs:

Sponsor a small habitat restoration project, adopt a road and fight litter, or salvage native plants. Give one day a month to help plant trees, recycle household hazardous waste, or work to restore a dying stream. Individuals,

businesses and groups can all join in! Check out our web site at www.metrokc.gov/earthlegacy for more details on the new and exciting programs announced each month.

Join our Earth Registry: Become an Earth Steward! Stewards will receive information via our newsletter and email messages. You will receive highlights of our legacy programs and upcoming events and news about our finest volunteers.

Become an Earth Hero: Each month, an individual and an organization are selected to be recognized as Earth Heroes. Let us know what your organization is up to!

How? Visit our web site at www.metrokc.gov/earthlegacy

to get involved, access news, innovative programs, stories on local Earth Heroes, Earth Cities, and more. Call the Earth Legacy Information line to get more involved at (206) 205-5090. •



**King County
Earth Legacy 2000**

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